



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/715,213

11/18/2003

Heather Allison Schlegel

10587.0178-00000

2242

22852

7590

05/27/2010

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER
LLP

901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER

PILLAI, NAMITHA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2173

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/27/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/715,213
Filing Date: November 18, 2003
Appellant(s): SCHLEGEL ET AL.

Andrew T. Foy
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 3/8/10 appealing from the Office action mailed 8/6/09.

(1) Real Party in Interest

The examiner has no comment on the statement, or lack of statement, identifying by name the real party in interest in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The following is a list of claims that are rejected and pending in the application:

Claims 15-23, 25-39, 41, 42, 44-46, 48 and 50-53

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The examiner has no comment on the appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The examiner has no comment on the summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The examiner has no comment on the appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal. Every ground of rejection set forth in the Office action from which the appeal is taken (as modified by any advisory actions) is being maintained by the examiner except for the grounds of rejection (if any) listed under the

Art Unit: 2173

subheading "WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS." New grounds of rejection (if any) are provided under the subheading "NEW GROUNDS OF REJECTION."

(7) Claims Appendix

The examiner has no comment on the copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the appellant's brief.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

7,275,215 B2	WERNDORFER	9-2007
7,185,059 B2	DANIELL	2-2007

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 7, 275, 215 B2 (Werndorfer et al.), herein referred to as Werndorfer and U. S. Patent No. 7, 185, 059 B2 (Daniell et al.), herein referred to as Daniell.

Referring to claim 15, Werndorfer discloses a computer-implemented method for enabling electronic communications by a user having multiple accounts hosted by a single communications service provider (column 3, lines 39-37). The service provider that represents each of the multiple accounts of the user hosted by the communications

Art Unit: 2173

service provider with a corresponding screen name (Figure 3). Werndorfer discloses displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate multiple lists of screen names for each of several accounts of the user with the communications service, each list including other identities with whom the user communicates using the account to which the list corresponds (column 3, lines 39-37). Werndorfer discloses that each of the other screen names represents another account that is hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding to another user (Figure 3). The list is a contiguous list of screen names that represents other accounts that are hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding to the other users (Figure 3). This list is configurable to be arranged into one or more sub-lists of screen names, each sub-list including one or more screen names from the set of screen names (Figure 3), the sub-lists are the online contacts and the offline contacts. There is a buddy list for each account in a unified graphical user interface. A buddy list includes a list of other identities with whom the user communicates. Werndorfer discloses using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the multiple accounts of the user, by the single communications service provider of a particular source account from which to initiate an electronic communication (Figures 7 and 8), where the user selects one identity from any of the accounts and initiates communication. Werndorfer discloses using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from a list of screen names corresponding to the particular source account selected by the user and included in the graphical user interface, of a particular screen name to whom to send the electronic communication (Figures 7 and 8).

Art Unit: 2173

Werndorfer discloses sending the electronic communication to the particular screen name such that the electronic communication is identified and sent to the particular screen name having been sent from the particular source account selected by the user (Figures 8 and 9). Figure 8 displays a chat session to the identity from the source account. The chat display conveys the source account with which the user is sending communication with. Werndorfer does not disclose multiple lists of identities with whom the user communicates electronically, wherein each individual list corresponds to a different account of the user and is separated from the other list of identities. Daniell discloses multiple lists of identities with whom the user communicates electronically, wherein each individual list corresponds to a particular one of the accounts of the user and is separated from the other list of screen names (Figure 14). The user is hosted by the single communications service provider (Figure 14). Daniell discloses that an individual screen name representing an individual account hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding to an individual user with whom the user communicates is listed in at least two of the multiple lists of other screen names (column 16, lines 50-55). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Daniell multiple lists of identities with whom the user communicates electronically, wherein each individual list corresponds to a particular one of the accounts of the user and is separated from the other list of identities. The messaging systems of Werndorfer and Daniell both contain access to multiple accounts through one user interface window. The window in Daniell distinguishes the identities based on the accounts to which each identity belongs, thereby associating an identity

Art Unit: 2173

on the list with an account. This provides motivation for Werndorfer to learn from Daniell. Therefore one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to learn from Daniell multiple lists of identities with whom the user communicates electronically, wherein each individual list corresponds to a particular one of the accounts of the user and is separated from the other list of identities.

Referring to claim 16, Werndorfer discloses that the multiple accounts of the user are linked using linking logic based on a remote server (Figures 5 and 14).

Referring to claim 17, Werndorfer discloses comprising offering the user a list of potential accounts to which a link from the multiple accounts may be created, wherein the list of potential accounts is created based on relationships between the potential identities accounts and the multiple accounts known to exist within the remote server (Figure 5), where the list of potential accounts and the status of the accounts are conveyed.

Referring to claim 18, Werndorfer discloses receiving a response to the electronic communication from the particular screen name and addressed to the particular source account (Figure 8).

Referring to claim 19, Werndorfer discloses logging on to the single communications service using a first account of the user that differs from the particular source account and in response to logging on to the single communications service using the first account of the user, automatically being logged on to the single communications service for the particular source account (column 4, lines 20-22).

Referring to claim 20, Werndorfer discloses displaying indications of the several accounts of the user in the single graphical user interface (Figure 9).

Referring to claim 21, Werndorfer discloses comprising displaying the lists of other screen names associated with each of the multiple accounts of the user in the single graphical user interface (Figure 9).

Referring to claim 22, Werndorfer discloses responsive to an addition of a new screen name to the list for one of the multiple accounts of the user, adding the new screen name to the lists for the other of the multiple accounts of the user (column 3, lines 39-47).

Referring to claim 23, Werndorfer discloses a graphical user interface for facilitating communications by a user having multiple accounts hosted by a single instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising one or more window interfaces that are structured and arranged (column 3, lines 39-47). Werndorfer discloses that the service provider represents each of the multiple accounts of the user hosted by the instant messaging service provider that represents each of the multiple accounts of the user hosted by the instant messaging service provider with a corresponding screen name (Figure 3). Werndorfer discloses a display portion configured to make perceivable two or more instant messaging contact lists wherein each instant messaging contacts list includes one or more constituent instant messaging identities and each instant messaging contacts list is associated with one of the multiple accounts of the user (column 3, lines 39-47 and Figure 9). This list includes a contiguous listing of other screen names, each of the other screen names

Art Unit: 2173

representing another account that is hosted by the single instant messaging service provider (Figure 3). Werndorfer discloses one or more visual indicators that are configured to display the current logon status of the other screen names included in the instant messaging contacts lists associated with the multiple accounts of the user (Figure 9), where the online and offline status are indicated. Werndorfer discloses wherein at least a first screen name from a first instant messaging contacts list associated with a first account of the user hosted by the single instant messaging service provider and represented by a first screen name is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user (Figure 9). Werndorfer discloses that at least a second screen name from a second instant messaging contacts list associated with a second account of the user hosted by the single instant messaging service provider and represented by a second screen name also is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user (Figure 9). Werndorfer does not disclose that each instant messaging contacts list is associated with the multiple accounts of the user, is separated from the other instant messaging contacts lists. Daniell discloses that each instant messaging contacts list is associated with the multiple accounts of the user and is separated from the other instant messaging contacts lists (Figure 14). Daniell discloses a third screen name representing an individual account hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding to an individual user with whom the user communicates is listed in both the first instant messaging contact list and the second instant messaging contacts list (column 16, lines 50-55). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Daniell

Art Unit: 2173

that each instant messaging contacts list is associated with the multiple accounts of the user, is separated from the other instant messaging contacts lists. The messaging systems of Werndorfer and Daniell both contain access to multiple accounts through one user interface window. The window in Daniell distinguishes the identities based on the accounts to which each identity belongs, thereby associating an identity on the list with an account. This provides motivation for Werndorfer to learn from Daniell.

Therefore one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to learn from Daniell multiple lists of identities with whom the user communicates electronically, wherein each individual list corresponds to a particular one of the accounts of the user and is separated from the other list of identities.

Referring to claim 24, Werndorfer discloses that the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable a display of an instant message addressed to one of the multiple identities of the user (Figure 8).

Referring to claim 25, Werndorfer discloses that the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of additional of the multiple accounts of the user in response to a sign on of one of the multiple accounts of the user (column 4, lines 20-21).

Referring to claim 26, Werndorfer discloses that the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of additional of the multiple accounts of the user in response to a sign on of any one of the multiple accounts o f the user (column 4, lines 20-21).

Referring to claim 27, Werndorfer discloses that the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for each of the multiple accounts of the user (Figure 4).

Referring to claim 28, Werndorfer discloses that the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for one of the multiple accounts of the user, wherein the preferences are applied globally to the other accounts of the user (Figure 5).

Referring to claim 29, Werndorfer and Daniell disclose displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate multiple lists of screen names with whom the user communicates electronically comprises displaying a single graphical user interface that is configured (Daniell, Figure 14). Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to select a particular list corresponding to a particular one of the multiple accounts of the user (Figure 7), where the user selects an identity from a particular list. Werndorfer discloses in response to a selection by the user of the particular list corresponding to the particular account, display the particular list for that corresponds to the particular account selected by the user (Figure 7).

Referring to claim 30, Werndorfer and Daniell discloses displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate multiple lists of screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates electronically comprises concurrently displaying lists corresponding to each of at least two accounts of the user (Daniell, Figure 14).

Referring to claim 31, Werndorfer discloses a computer-implemented method for linking multiple accounts of a user hosted by a single communications service provider (column 3, lines 39-47). The service provider that represents each of the accounts of the user with a unique screen name (Figure 3). Werndorfer discloses maintaining, for a user who has multiple accounts that are hosted by the single communications service provider for user in communicating electronically with other users (column 3, lines 39-47), where the single application provides access to multiple communication accounts. Werndorfer discloses a first contacts list corresponding to a first account of the user, the first contacts list including screen names that each represent another account hosted by the single communications service provider and correspond to another user and the first contacts list and enabling the user to communicate electronically with the other users corresponding to the screen names included within the first contacts list. Werndorfer discloses maintaining, for the user, a second contacts list corresponding to a second account of the user, the second contacts list being separate from the first contacts list, including additional screen names that each represent an additional account hosted by the single communications service provider and correspond to an additional user, and the second contacts list enabling the user to communicate electronically with the additional users corresponding to the additional screen names included within the second contacts list. See column 3, lines 39-47. Each account has a separate buddy list which includes identities that the user can communicate with. Werndorfer discloses authenticating the first account of list using the first identity of the user. Werndorfer discloses authenticating the second account of the user. See column 4, lines 20-21.

Art Unit: 2173

The sign on process authenticates the lists of the separate accounts. Werndorfer discloses creating an association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user, wherein the association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first account of the user and the second account of the user in response to authentication of both the first account of the user and the second account of the user. See column 3, lines 39-47 and Figure 9. In response to signing on, a display of the lists of each account is displayed to the user. Werndorfer discloses that the single graphical user interface being configured to display the first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user and the second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user such that graphical user interface enables the user to interact with the first contacts list to communicate with the other users using the first account of the user. This list has the first contacts list that is contiguously listed of the screen names representing the other accounts hosted by the single communication service provider and corresponding to the other users and the second contacts list of contiguous listing of the screen names representing the additional accounts hosted by the single communication service provider and corresponding to the additional users. Werndorfer also discloses interacting with the second contacts list to communicate with the additional users using the second account of the user. See Figures 8 and 9. The identities of each list can be contacted. Werndorfer does not disclose separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account. Daniell discloses

Art Unit: 2173

separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account (Figure 14).

Daniell discloses that a particular screen name representing a particular account hosted by the single communications service provider and corresponding a particular user is listed in both the first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user and the second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user (column 16, lines 50-55). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Daniell separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account. The messaging systems of Werndorfer and Daniell both contain access to multiple accounts through one user interface window. The window in Daniell distinguishes the identities based on the accounts to which each identity belongs, thereby associating an identity on the list with an account. This provides motivation for Werndorfer to learn from Daniell. Therefore one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to learn from Daniell separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account.

Referring to claim 32, Werndorfer discloses authenticating the first account includes using a first password to authenticate the first account and authenticating the second account includes using a second password to authenticate the second account (column 4, lines 20-21).

Art Unit: 2173

Referring to claim 33, Werndorfer discloses that the first password and the second password are the same (column 4, lines 34-38).

Referring to claim 34, Werndorfer discloses that the first password and the second password are different (column 4, lines 20-21).

Referring to claim 35, Werndorfer discloses authenticating the first account includes using a SecureID to authenticate the first account and authenticating the second account includes using a SecureID to authenticate the second account (column 4, lines 20-37).

Referring to claim 36, Werndorfer discloses creating the association between the first account and the second account includes using a one-way link configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account (column 3, lines 59-62).

Referring to claim 37, Werndorfer discloses creating the association between the first identity account and the second account includes using a bi-directional link configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account (column 3, lines 59-62).

Referring to claim 38, Werndorfer discloses creating the association between the first account and the second account includes using a star-link configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account (column 3, lines 59-62).

Referring to claim 39, Werndorfer discloses creating the association between the first identity account and the second account includes using a mesh-link configuration to

Art Unit: 2173

create the association between the first account and the second account (column 3, lines 59-62).

Referring to claim 40, Werndorfer discloses that the first account is a part of a first domain and the second account is a part of a second domain that differs from the first domain (column 4, lines 28-30).

Referring to claim 41, Werndorfer discloses setting preferences for the first account wherein setting the preferences for the first account also sets the preferences for the second account (column 4, lines 38-40).

Referring to claim 42, Werndorfer discloses setting first preferences for the first account and setting second preferences for the second account (column 4, lines 21-25).

Referring to claim 43, Werndorfer discloses that the first contacts list and the second contacts list include one or more common identities included in both the first participant contacts list and the second participant contacts list (Figure 7).

Referring to claim 44, Werndorfer discloses that single communications service enables linking multiple accounts hosted by the single communications service so as to enable presence of one account to be reflected based on a login of another account of the multiple accounts (column 4, lines 34-38).

Referring to claim 45, Werndorfer discloses a computer-implemented method for enabling instant messaging by a user who has at least two different instant messaging accounts hosted by a single instant messaging service provider that represents the two different instant messaging accounts with corresponding screen names (column 3, lines 59-62). Werndorfer discloses displaying, to a user who has both a first instant

Art Unit: 2173

messaging account and a second instant messaging account that are hosted by a single instant messaging service provider, a single instant messaging graphical user interface (Figure 7). Werndorfer discloses a first instant messaging participant contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user and that includes a contiguous listing of instant messaging screen names that the user has selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging contacts list, each of the screen names included in the first contiguous listing representing an instant messaging account also hosted by the single instant messaging service provider. Werndorfer discloses a second instant messaging participant contacts list that is separate from the first instant messaging participant list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user. See column 3, lines 39-47. Each account has a separate buddy list which includes identities that the user can communicate with. Werndorfer discloses that it includes a second contiguous listing of instant messaging screen names that the user has selected for inclusion in the second instant messaging participant contacts list (Figure 7). Werndorfer discloses receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of a first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list. Werndorfer discloses that in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the particular instant messaging screen name from the particular instant messaging contacts list, enabling the user to compose a first instant message to the first instant messaging contact. Figures 8 and 9. Werndorfer discloses that based on the selection of the first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging participant contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging

Art Unit: 2173

account of the user, sending the first instant message composed by the user to the first instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the first instant message as having been sent from the first instant messaging account (Figure 8). Werndorfer discloses receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of a second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging contacts list (Figure 9), where the identity from the Yahoo account can be selected. Werndorfer discloses that in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant contacts list, enabling the user to compose a second instant message to the second instant messaging contact. Werndorfer discloses that based on the selection of the second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, sending the second instant message composed by the user to the second instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the second instant message as having been sent from the second instant messaging account. See column 3, lines 39-47. Each account has its own IM functions where the identity can be selected from one of the accounts and a message sent to this account. Werndorfer does not disclose separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account. Daniell discloses separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account (Figure 14). Daniell discloses that each of the screen names included in the second contiguous

Art Unit: 2173

listing representing an instant messaging account also hosted by the single instant messaging service provider, wherein a particular instant messaging screen name representing a particular instant messaging account hosted by the single instant messaging service provider is listed in both the first instant messaging contacts list and the second instant messaging contacts list (column 16, lines 50-55). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Daniell separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account. The messaging systems of Werndorfer and Daniell both contain access to multiple accounts through one user interface window. The window in Daniell distinguishes the identities based on the accounts to which each identity belongs, thereby associating an identity on the list with an account. This provides motivation for Werndorfer to learn from Daniell. Therefore one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to learn from Daniell separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account.

Referring to claim 46, Werndorfer discloses collapsing the first instant messaging participant contacts list within the instant messaging graphical user interface such that the contiguous listing of the instant messaging screen names that the user selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging participant contacts list is not visible within the instant messaging graphical user interface after collapsing the first instant messaging contacts list (Figure 7), selecting the “-“ next to “Online Contacts” collapses the list.

Referring to claim 47, Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to add a new instant messaging contact to the first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user (column 3, lines 39-47), where the user preferences include those that are implemented in IM services including adding new contacts. Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to add the same new contact to the second instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user (column 3, lines 39-47). Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to select, from within the instant messaging graphical user interface, the new instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user. Werndorfer discloses that based on a selection of the new instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user. Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to send a new instant message to the new instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the new instant message as having been sent from the first instant messaging account. Figures 7 and 8. Werndorfer discloses enabling the user to select, from within the instant messaging graphical user interface, the new instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user (Figure 9). Werndorfer discloses that based on a selection of the new instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging participant contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, enabling the user to send another new instant message to the new instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the

Art Unit: 2173

other new instant message as having been sent from the second instant messaging account. Figure 9 displays identities associated with multiple accounts. An identity from the second account is selectable where a message is sent to this identity.

Referring to claim 48, Werndorfer discloses displaying the single instant messaging graphical user interface that includes both the first instant messaging contacts list and the second instant messaging participant contacts list includes concurrently displaying both the contiguous listing of the instant messaging screen names that the user selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging contacts list and contiguous listing of the instant messaging screen names that the user selected for inclusion in the second instant messaging contacts list within the single instant messaging graphical user interface on a single display screen (Figure 9).

Referring to claim 49, Werndorfer discloses that the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user are maintained by the same instant messaging provider (column 3, lines 59-62).

Referring to claim 50, Werndorfer discloses that the communications service is an instant messaging service (column 1, lines 9-12). Werndorfer discloses that the multiple accounts of the user are instant messaging accounts with the instant messaging service (column 3, lines 59-62). Werndorfer and Daniell discloses displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate multiple lists of screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates electronically includes displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate

Art Unit: 2173

multiple list of identities with whom the user communicates via instant messaging (Daniell, figure 14). Werndorfer discloses using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the multiple accounts of the user, of a particular source account from which to initiate an electronic communication includes using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the several instant messaging accounts of the user, of a particular source instant messaging account from which to initiate an instant message (Figure 9), where the user selects a specific identity in a specific account. Werndorfer discloses using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of screen names corresponding to users corresponding to the particular source account selected by the user, of a particular identity to whom to send the electronic communication includes using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of screen names corresponding to the particular source instant messaging account selected by the user, of a particular screen name to whom to send the instant message (Figure 9). Werndorfer discloses sending the electronic communication to the particular screen name such that the electronic communication is identified to the particular screen name as being sent from the particular source account selected by the user includes sending the instant message to the particular screen name such that the instant message is identified to the particular screen name as being sent from the particular source instant messaging account selected by the user (Figure 8).

Referring to claim 51, Werndorfer discloses that the communications service is an instant messaging service (column 1, lines 9-12). Werndorfer discloses that the first

Art Unit: 2173

account of the user is a first instant messaging account of the user hosted by the instant messaging service. Werndorfer discloses that the second account of the user is a second instant messaging account of the user hosted by the instant messaging service. See column 3, lines 59-62. Werndorfer discloses maintaining, for the user a first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user, includes maintaining, for the user, a first instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the first instant messaging account of the user, the first instant messaging contacts list including one or more instant messaging screen names corresponding to other users and enabling the user to communicate via instant messaging with the other users. Werndorfer discloses maintaining, for the user, a second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user, includes maintaining, for the user, a second instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the second instant messaging account of the user, the second instant messaging contacts list being separate from the first instant messaging contacts list, including one or more additional instant messaging identities associated with one or more additional users, and enabling the user to communicate via instant messaging with the additional users associated with the additional instant messaging identities included within the second instant messaging contacts list. See column 3, lines 39-45. There is a buddy list that is associated with each account. Each separate buddy list contains screen names that the user communicates with. Werndorfer discloses authenticating the first account of the user includes authenticating the first instant messaging account of the user. Werndorfer discloses authenticating the second account of the user includes authenticating the first instant messaging account of the

Art Unit: 2173

user. See column 4, lines 20-22. Werndorfer discloses creating an association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user includes creating an association between the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user (column 3, lines 59-62). Werndorfer discloses that the association between the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user in response to authentication of both the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user (Figure 7). In response to logging on and authenticating the accounts a graphical user interface displays multiple lists associated with separate IM accounts. Werndorfer discloses that the single graphical user interface being configured to accommodate the first instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the second instant messaging account of the user such that the single graphical user interface enables the user to interact with the first instant messaging contacts list to communicate with the other users via instant messaging using the first instant messaging account of the user and to interact with the second instant messaging contacts list to communicate with the additional users via instant messaging using the second instant messaging account of the user (Figures 7-9). Werndorfer does not disclose separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account.

Art Unit: 2173

Daniell discloses separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account (Figure 14). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Daniell separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account. The messaging systems of Werndorfer and Daniell both contain access to multiple accounts through one user interface window. The window in Daniell distinguishes the identities based on the accounts to which each identity belongs, thereby associating an identity on the list with an account. This provides motivation for Werndorfer to learn from Daniell. Therefore one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to learn from Daniell separately displaying the first and second contact lists, with the first list corresponding to a first account and the second list corresponding to a second account.

Referring to claim 52, Werndorfer discloses a computer-implemented method comprising displaying a single graphical user interface that includes a first group label that corresponds to a first electronic messaging account of a user and a second group label that corresponds to a second electronic messaging account of the user (reference number 310, Figure 3). Both accounts are hosted by a particular electronic messaging service provider. Werndorfer discloses a first contiguous listing of multiple messaging screen names, each of the screen names included in the first contiguous listing representing another electronic messaging account also hosted by the particular electronic messaging service provider and corresponding to another user with whom the

Art Unit: 2173

user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user (reference number 301, Figure 3). Werndorfer discloses configured to reflect on-line presence information for at least some of the messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user (Figure 5). Werndorfer discloses a second contiguous listing of multiple messaging screen names, each of the screen names included in the second contiguous listing representing another electronic messaging account also hosted by the particular electronic messaging service provider and corresponding to another user with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user (Figure 6). Werndorfer discloses configured to reflect on-line presence information for at least some of the messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user (Figure 5). Werndorfer discloses receiving an indication of a selection by the user of a first messaging contact from the first contiguous listing of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user (Figure 7). Werndorfer discloses in response to receiving the indication of the selection by the user of the first messaging contact, enabling the user to compose and send to the first messaging contact an electronic message that is identified as originating from the first electronic messaging account of the user (Figure 8). Werndorfer discloses receiving an indication of a selection by the user of a second messaging contact from the second contiguous listing of messaging screen names, each of the screen names included in the second contiguous listing representing another electronic messaging account also

Art Unit: 2173

hosted by the particular electronic messaging service provider and corresponding to another user with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user (Figure 9). Werndorfer discloses in response to receiving the indication of the selection by the user of the second messaging contact, enabling the user to compose and send to the second messaging contact an electronic message that is identified as originating from the second electronic messaging account of the user (Figure 9 and column 6, lines 10-21). Werndorfer does not disclose that the first contiguous listing and second contiguous listing are not oriented in a position corresponding to the first and second group labels. Daniell discloses the first contiguous listing being oriented in a position corresponding to the first group label (Figure 14). Daniell discloses the second contiguous listing being separated from the first contiguous listing of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user, oriented in a position corresponding to the second group label (Figure 14). Daniell discloses that the first group label is selectable to inspire visual display or obfuscation of the first contiguous listing of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user (Figure 14). Daniell discloses that the second group label is selectable to inspire visual display or obfuscation of the second contiguous listing of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user (Figure 14). The down arrows next to the group labels allow for the user to select to display or obfuscation of the respective account list. Daniell discloses a particular messaging screen name representing a

Art Unit: 2173

particular electronic messaging account hosted by the particular electronic messaging service provider and corresponding to a particular user is listed in both the first contiguous listing of multiple messaging screen names and the second contiguous listing of multiple messaging screen names (column 16, lines 50-55). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to learn from Daniell that the first contiguous listing and second contiguous listing are not oriented in a position corresponding to the first and second group labels. The messaging systems of Werndorfer and Daniell both contain access to multiple accounts through one user interface window. The window in Daniell distinguishes the identities based on the accounts to which each identity belongs, thereby associating an identity on the list with an account. This provides motivation for Werndorfer to learn from Daniell. Therefore one skilled in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to learn from Daniell that the first contiguous listing and second contiguous listing are not oriented in a position corresponding to the first and second group labels.

Referring to claim 53, Werndorfer and Daniell discloses displaying a single graphical user interface that includes a first contiguous listing of messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user and a second contiguous listing of multiple messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user includes displaying a single graphical user interface that includes a first contiguous listing of messaging screen names that is arranged into multiple contiguous sub-listings of messaging screen names

Art Unit: 2173

corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user, each of which is associated with a different identifiable label and a second contiguous listing of messaging screen names that is arranged into multiple contiguous sub-listings of messaging screen names corresponding to users with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user, each of which is associated with a different identifiable label (Daniell, Figure 14).

(10) Response to Argument

Claims 15-22, 29, 30 and 50

Appellant's argue that the combination of Werndorfer and Daniell fails to disclose multiple lists of other screen names that represent other accounts that are hosted by a single communications service provider and a single communications service provider that hosts multiple different accounts of a user. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Daniell discloses multiple lists of other screen names that represent other accounts that are hosted by a single communications service provider. As shown in Figure 14, BellSouth Messenger is the service provider that hosts the multiple different instant messenger accounts. The multiple lists are displayed of screen names of different accounts that are hosted by the single BellSouth Messenger service provider. By being the container for all this account information, BellSouth Messenger serves as the host where all these different types of information are gathered, stored and accessed. By providing access to the instant messenger account information, the service providers in both Werndorfer and Daniell host these multiple different accounts.

Appellant's argue that the references do not disclose two groups of contacts that both list contacts whose IM service is hosted by the same service provider. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. One example of this feature is disclosed in Daniell in Figure 14. Daniell discloses multiple groups of contacts that both list contacts whose IM service is hosted by the BellSouth Messenger. All the groups including the BellSouth group, MSN Contacts and AOL Contacts are hosted by the BellSouth Messenger.

Appellant's argue that Daniell does not disclose displaying a single graphical user interface wherein an individual screen name is listed in at least two lists that represent other accounts that are hosted by a single communications provider. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Werndorfer discloses one example in Figure 3 where an individual screen name such as belonging to Tom Webster is listed at least in two lists in this case the "Online Contacts" and "Offline Contacts" lists.

Appellant's argue that Werndorfer does not disclose responsive to an addition of a new screen name to the list for one of the multiple accounts of the user, adding the new screen name to the lists for the other of the multiple accounts of the user. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. Figure 5 of Werndorfer discloses the accounts manager where additional screen names can be added for multiple accounts of the user. The addition of one new screen name to the list includes addition of the screen names to multiple lists depending on the current status of the screen name. The screen name is added to both the online and offline contacts lists based on the current status of the screen name. Werndorfer discloses multiple lists of other screen names in a single graphical user interface including the online contacts list and the offline contacts list.

Art Unit: 2173

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

/Namitha Pillai/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2173

Namitha Pillai
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2173
May 22, 2010

Conferees:

/Kieu Vu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2173

/William L. Bashore/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2175